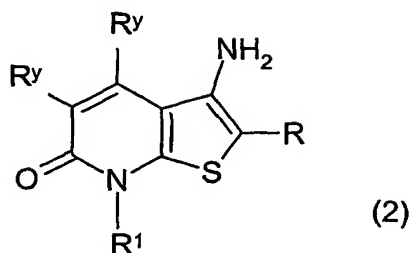


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (2):



- 5 wherein

R is a -CN, -NO₂, -CO₂Alk², -COC₁₋₆alkyl or -CONHet² group;

Alk² is an optionally substituted alkyl, arylalkyl-, aryl, aryloxyalkyl-, alkanoyloxyalkyl- or aroyloxyalkyl- group;

- 10 NHet² is an optionally substituted 4- to 6-membered heterocycloalkyl group attached through a nitrogen atom to the group -CO;

R¹ is an optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl group; and

R^y, which may be the same or different, is each a hydrogen atom or a hydrogen atom precursor;

- 15 and the salts, solvates, hydrates, protected derivatives and *N*-oxides thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 in which R¹ is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, thienyl, indolyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl group.

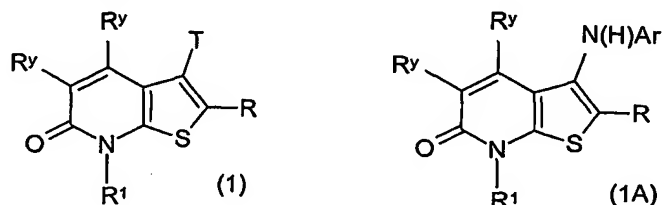
- 20 3. A compound according to Claim 2 wherein R¹ is an optionally substituted phenyl or cyclopropyl group.

4. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which each R^y is
25 a hydrogen atom.

5. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in which Alk² is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group.

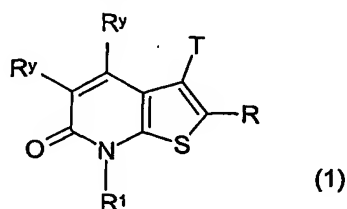
6. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein R is a -CN, -CO₂CH₃, -CO₂CH₂CH₃, -COCH₃ or -CONHet² group.

7. Use of a compound of formula (2) as defined in Claim 1 in the manufacture of a compound of formula (1) or (1A):



wherein R, R¹ and R^y are as defined in Claim 1, T is a halogen atom, and Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group.

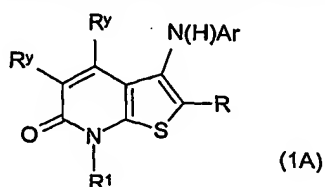
8. A process for the manufacture of a halide of formula (1):



wherein R, R¹ and R^y are as defined in Claim 1 and T is as defined in Claim 7; which comprises diazotization of a compound of formula (2) as defined in Claim 1, followed by halide displacement.

9. A process according to Claim 8 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of an alkyl nitrite or a metal nitrite in the presence of an acid, followed by addition of a copper salt, in the presence of a solvent.

10. A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula (1A):



wherein R, R¹ and R^y are as defined in Claim 1 and Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group; which comprises reacting a

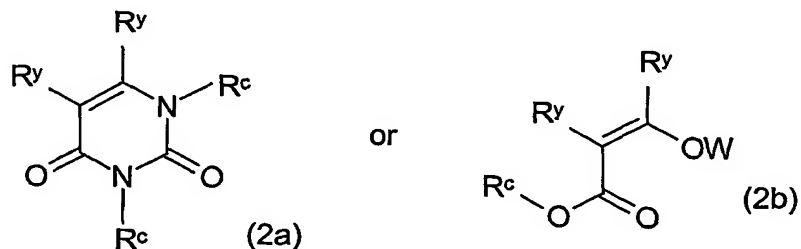
compound of formula (2), as defined in Claim 1, with a compound ArQ, wherein Q is a leaving group, in the presence of a transition metal catalyst.

11. A process according to Claim 10 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a solvent, using a palladium catalyst, a phosphine ligand and a base.

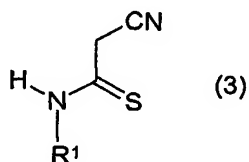
12. A process according to Claim 10 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a copper catalyst.

13. A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula (2), as defined in Claim 1, which comprises the steps of:

a) reacting a compound of formula (2a) or (2b):

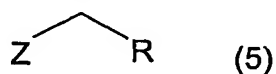


15 wherein R^y is as defined in Claim 1, R^c is an optionally substituted alkyl group, and W is a hydrogen atom, a metal ion or an amine salt; with a compound of formula (3):



wherein R^1 is as defined in Claim 1;

20 b) followed by reaction with a compound of formula (5):



wherein R is as defined in Claim 1 and Z is a leaving group.

14. The process according to Claim 13 wherein W is a metal ion.

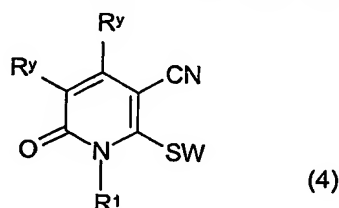
15. The process according to Claim 13 or Claim 14 wherein step a) is performed in the presence of a base.

16. The process according to Claim 15 wherein the base is selected from a lithium base, a silazane, a carbonate, an alkoxide, a hydroxide, a hydride, an organic amine, or a cyclic amine.

17. The process according to any one of Claims 13 to 16 wherein the reaction is carried out in an organic solvent.

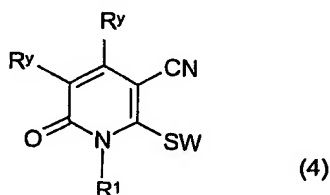
18. The process according to Claim 17 wherein step a) and step b) is each carried out in a organic solvent, which may be the same or different in each step, selected from an amide, an ether, an alcohol or acetonitrile.

19. The process according to any one of Claims 13 to 18 wherein an intermediate of formula (4) is isolated after step a):



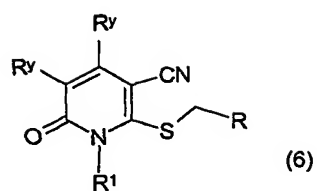
wherein R¹ and R^y are as defined in Claim 1 and W is as defined in Claim 13.

20. A compound of formula (4):



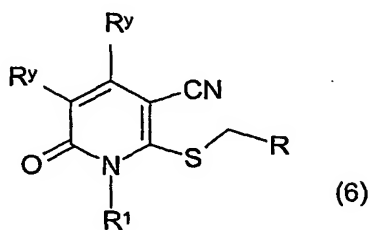
wherein R¹ and R^y are as defined in Claim 1 and W is as defined in Claim 13.

21. The process according to any one of Claims 13 to 19 wherein an intermediate of formula (6) is isolated during step b):



wherein R^1 , R and R^y are as defined in Claim 1.

22. A compound of formula (6):



5

wherein R^1 , R and R^y are as defined in Claim 1.